

Message from the Secretary General

Richard Marais seeks your support in building EACR Membership, particularly through the recruitment of student members. With membership now approaching 8,000 he asks an important question.

Is having a growing membership really that important?



Richard Marais

It is a great pleasure to see membership of our Association continuing to grow so quickly as this is probably the strongest indication we have that EACR, its scientific meetings, benefits, and services to members, are valued and relevant to cancer researchers in Europe and further afield.

Membership of EACR now approaches 8,000 and it is only in the area of student membership that numbers are not growing apace. Part of the reason is that many students move on each year to become 'Active EACR Members' but the other reason is that students new to cancer research are simply not aware of EACR. If you have regular contact with students, please invite them to join the Association as soon as possible – student membership is free of charge for up to four years. Or encourage them to join a National Society affiliated to EACR where they will receive full EACR membership as part of the benefits.

As EACR grows its standing rises internationally: and with it its value to

members. Our bi-annual conference EACR-20 in Lyon last summer not only marked the Association's 40th Anniversary but was attended by a record number of participants who appreciated an outstanding scientific programme.

Back in 2006 more than 800 EACR members attended ECCO-14 in Barcelona, also attracted by the strong programme. This level of participation has encouraged further development of the conference 'tracks' of interest to EACR members for the ECCO 15 - 34 ESMO conference in Berlin this September. Please take time to look over the highlights set out in this Newsletter and the full programme on the ECCO website. We believe that the development of the ECCO/ESMO meeting will see a further increase in support from EACR members, and the Association's involvement is further enhanced by our satellite meeting: The EACR Special Conference on Inflammation and Cancer.

Last year's 'Membership Satisfaction Survey' also highlighted an appetite and enthusiasm for smaller, highly focused meetings. Registration is now open for the first EACR Symposia in what we hope will be a long and successful series. 'Chromatin and Cancer' and 'Transcription and Cancer' are being presented jointly with BACR one of our affiliated National Societies and we hope to work in partnership with other National Society members moving forward. Being able to reach out and respond to the needs and interests of more and more members gives us the opportunity to stage viable meetings and promote excellent opportunities for

communication and collaboration in the context of impressive scientific programmes.

I hope your membership will continue to be of value to you this year and in the future.

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